Dear families,

This week student leaders received their badges and were commissioned at Assembly. Congratulations to all of the students who were successful in their applications. Thank you also to many others who applied and presented before their class prior to voting. The number of students who applied in each class was substantial and tells us how highly they regard these positions. I look forward to working with you all throughout 2012 on many projects.

Next Wednesday is Ash Wednesday and it begins our Lenten journey. Lent is about getting things into perspective. It focuses our attention on what life is about and where we are heading. This year the theme for Lent is “Returned to Ourselves”. We begin with the powerful symbolism of Ash Wednesday, putting the ashes on our forehead, under the sign of the cross with the words: ‘Turn away from sin and believe in the Gospel’. In ancient times people put ashes on their heads when they were in mourning. We acknowledge the shortness of our lives and resolve to turn away from sin and be faithful to the Gospel. The ashes challenge us to set our hearts on things that really matter. Mass for Ash Wednesday will be celebrated in the school hall on Wednesday, 22nd February at 11:30am. All parents and friends are most welcome.

Bulmans Road is extremely busy with parents dropping off and picking up children from St Catherine of Siena and Catholic Regional College. At all times the safety of the children is our priority. Staff are on duty after school to monitor the front of the school and the crossing is also supervised by Council staff. Parents are asked to observe the ‘No Parking’ areas and not to park in front of gateways where children may be walking. When entering and exiting the service road please be aware of children walking to and from cars and drive accordingly. The area is a very busy one however with patience and co-operation we will be able to ensure the safety of all while allowing you the access to pick up and drop of your children.

As we begin the new school year I would like to take this opportunity to remind parents that we have many students at school with nut allergies. For these children this can be a life threatening situation so is a serious medical condition. When making lunches for your children I would ask that you find alternatives to spreads such as Nutella and Peanut Butter as these are both made from nuts and therefore can be dangerous to those with allergies.

I would like to remind all parents that the school yard is supervised from 8:30am each morning. There are children coming to school before 8:30 and therefore their safety is at risk. I ask that all parents take this into consideration when dropping children off before 8:30am each morning. Children do not have to be at school until 8:45am. OSHclub is a service available to parents who need to drop off their children before 8:30. Register your interest on www.oshclub.com.au.

Best wishes everyone for a great week

Carmel Marantelli
PRINCIPAL
CONGRATULATIONS TO THE FOLLOWING STUDENTS

Congratulations to Chloe Laurel and Connor Delaney on becoming our School Captains for 2012. Thank you to all the other children who also applied to be School Captain. Congratulations also to Lily Saliba and Kenrick Mascarenhas who are Vice School Captains for 2012.

Congratulations to the following children who were class representatives on Student Representative Council for 2012. We look forward to working with them to improve our school.

Prep A  Rose D’Arienzo

Prep B  Adam Mizzi

Prep D  Lincoln Braszell

1E  John Wheeler

1F  Teresa Sant

1H  Charlize Sygidus

2Q  Caleb Braszell

2R  Hollie Wilson

2S  Olivia Weaver

2/3T  Joshua Neralic

3U  Brylee Battye

3V  Caleb Mitchell

4I  Bode Tuckerman

4K  Zane Breich

5/6L  Emmanuel Lowa

5/6M  Andrew Tat

5/6N  Lauren Sands

5/6P  Chloe Laurel (School Captain)

5/6J  Connor Delaney (School Captain)

Congratulations to the following children who are members of the Liturgy Team for 2012. I am sure you will be of great help to Mrs Anderson and the school community throughout the year.

Luke Woof, Awet Kuel, Edelle Pirro, Zinah D’Souza and Isaac Muller

Congratulations to the following children who are members of the Sports Captains 2012. Mr Sage and I look forward to working with you throughout 2012.

Green (Freeman)  Sophia Ocon  Jake Syme  Dylan Reardon

Blue (McKillop)  Harmonie Wegener  Ethan Valentine

Gold (Hollows)  Amy Peters  Joshua Eagle

Red (Roberts)  Madeline Rizzo  Lucas Dingli

Congratulations to the following children who are Discovery Centre Monitors for 2012. We look forward to working with you: Kira Storer and Kylie Schembri.
Some reminders as we start the year:

School Uniform
All children are required to wear their summer uniform this term. The uniform shop will be open Monday - Thursday this week from 8:30 - 9:30. After this regular hours will be on Monday and Wednesday from 8:30 - 9:00. The uniform shop is located in the left hand portable on the edge of the asphalt area. All children are expected to be in full / correct school uniform at all times. Presentation in the correct uniform, with clean shoes and tidy hair expresses pride in our school and upholds the standard of our school. A note is required if a child is out of school uniform. If hair is being tied up it needs to be a yellow or a blue ribbon or dark coloured hair-tie.

Hats
All children are required to wear a hat whilst outside during recess, sport or other activity. Students without a hat will be required to stay inside at the first aid area. Hats can be purchased from the uniform shop.

Canteen
Once again the school canteen will run on Monday, Tuesday and Friday. If you are able to assist in the canteen on any of the days please complete the form at the back of the newsletter.

Punctuality
All students are required to be at school prior to the first bell. Being at school before the bell is important as it enables your child to develop social relationships with others and ensures they are at school for the commencement of the school day and learning activities.

Attendance
If your child is unwell it is important that they stay at home to recover and are not sent to school where others may then become sick as well. If your child is sick, it is a legal requirement that a note is given to their teacher, once they return to school, stating the reason for the absence.

School Visitors
When visiting the school all parents must enter the through the office and sign the visitors register. This register is used in an emergency to determine who is in the school so it is vital that you do not enter the school through any other doors.

Before School
Supervision of the yard before school does not commence until 8:30am. It is important that children are not dropped off and left at school prior to this as they will be unsupervised in the yard. The adventure playground is out of bounds to all students both before and after school.

After School Supervision
There are two teachers on duty after school. Children are to wait for parents on the asphalt area. Children are not to wait in the Office between 3.15 and 3.30 pm as this area is very congested for parents who may have a concern or query that they want an answer to by Lisa or Tina. Any child that has not been collected by 3.30pm will be required to wait in the Office.

Children who attend After School Care Programs offsite wait at the yellow seats for their bus to arrive.

PARISH STEWARDSHIP PROGRAM
As you are aware a new-tiered fee structure will be introduced in 2012. However, in 2011 all families were asked contribute to the Parish Stewardship Program.

To those families who have already made the effort to establish their contribution to this program we are very grateful for your support. I would like to remind families who are yet to contribute to ensure this has been addressed as soon as possible. We aim to have everyone on the lower tiered fee option in 2012.

As always any family who is experiencing genuine financial difficulties can discuss suitable arrangements with the Parish at any time. Of course, these payment arrangements and conversations remain confidential at all times.

Father Michael Moody
Parish Priest
On behalf of St. Dominic’s Parish Finance Committee
Ash Wednesday Mass

Mass will be celebrated at 11:30am on Wednesday, 22nd February in St Catherine of Siena School Hall. Parents and Friends are all welcome to attend Mass with us.

Parent /Teacher Getting To Know You Interviews

Getting to Know You Interviews will be held on Wednesday, 22nd and Thursday, 23rd February. Notes were sent home last week regarding dates and times. Please return them as soon as possible. Children will be dismissed at 12:30pm on Wednesday, 22nd February.

BOOK CLUB

All Book Club orders must be returned by this Friday, February 17.

Late orders cannot be accepted.

Sausage Sizzle…..

Just a reminder Sausage sizzle will be held on Thursday February 23 at lunch time. Sausages $1, Pop Tops $1. Children will need to pay on the day. Please return order forms that were sent home on Monday.

Next Wednesday February 22 Children will be dismissed at 12.30

For Getting to Know You Interviews
Education Maintenance Allowance — 2012

The Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) is provided to assist eligible families with the costs associated with the education of their children.

To be eligible for receipt of the EMA you must:

~ be either a parent or guardian of a primary or secondary school student up to the age of sixteen; and

~ be an eligible beneficiary of a Centreline pension, allowance or benefit within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004 or be a Veterans Affairs (TPI) pensioner or be a foster parent.

Consequently parents/guardians are able to access the EMA if they have a valid Health Care Card or valid Pension Card.

The eligibility criteria must be met as at the first day of Term 1 (1 February, 2012) and Term 3 (16 July, 2012).

The EMA provides an annual amount of $235 for primary students and $470 for secondary students and is paid in two instalments. This amount is split evenly between the parents/guardians and the school.

EMA application forms are available from the School Office

Please provide a copy of your Concession Card

Closing date is Monday 27 February 2012

Late applications will not be accepted by the Department of Education

PARENTS AND FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

The PFA is an important association, not only because of the funds they raise to support school programs but also because of the opportunities these occasions provide for socialising and developing relationships with others within the school community.

We are always looking for new members and welcome anyone who would like to contribute to this association. At 9am on Thursday 16th February we will have a cup of tea and a chat to discuss the activities this committee engages in throughout the year and to meet and welcome new members. We invite you to come along and see if this is a committee you would be able to contribute to. To show your interest please fill in the slip below and return to school.

St Catherine’s Parents & Friends Association

☐ I am interested and I can attend the morning tea on Thursday 16th February.

☐ I am interested but I am unable to attend the meeting.

Name: ____________________________ [Please Print]  Tel: ______________________

CANTEEN VOLUNTEERS

Once again, the Canteen is asking for Volunteers to help out in the Canteen during the year.

As the school becomes larger in size, so too does the need for extra volunteers. Where one person’s help was enough, we now need two. Also, for any new families wanting to help out, it’s a great way to meet other parents, as well as assisting the school. If you are able to assist on either a Monday, Tuesday or Friday, your help would be greatly appreciated. Rosters are being prepared shortly, so if you are able to assist, please return this slip by this coming Friday. Thank you.

CANTEEN VOLUNTEER SLIP

I can assist in the Canteen during Term One on the following days: (Please tick)

MONDAY [ ]  TUESDAY [ ]  FRIDAY [ ]

Name: ____________________________ Telephone No: ____________________________
St Dominic’s Parish Ball
Any young Lady wishing to be presented at the St Dominic’s Parish Ball on Friday the 29th June. Please contact Sue Mc Guinness 9743 2941 or Robyn Laffin 9743 3174.
The Ball will be at Luxor and we will also practise there on the 9 Thursdays before the Ball, from 6 pm to 8 pm. Costs are $270.00 per Debutante and $270.00 per partner. Tickets for guests is $80.00 per adult and children 12 years and under are $55.00

Recruiting New Staff
OSHClub are looking for new recruits to join their team. If you are interested and would like more information please call:
Australia wide : 1800 460 870
Victoria: 8564 9000
or email your resume to: jobs@oshclub.com.au

Education Tax Refund
Each year families who receive Family Tax Benefit Part A are able to claim 50% of the amounts paid on eligible education expenses. From July 1 2011 school approved uniform items have been added to the list of eligible items. You will need to keep all receipts for school uniform items. Further information regarding this can be found at www.educationtaxrefund.gov.au

St Dominic’s Church
10 Unitt Street, Melton
Tel: 9743 6515, Fax: 9747 8603
Email: stdoms@bigpond.net.au
Office Hours: Tuesday - Friday
Between : 10.00am - 4.00pm

Mass Times
Saturday Evenings: 6.00pm
Sunday Mornings: 9.00am & 11.00am

Weekday Liturgies
Tuesday Evening: 7.00pm
Wednesday to Friday: 9.15am

Diggers Rest Junior Football Club
News
Pre-Season Training Has Started!
Diggers Rest Oval, Plumpton Rd, Diggers Rest
Wednesdays 4.30pm – 6pm for all age groups (u10, u12, u14, & u16)
Registration Day; Friday, February 24th
GIRLS/BOYS OF ALL AGES & ABILITIES accepted
2012 Season Prices; Early Bird Special until 24th Feb. 1 child $70, 2 children $110, 3+ $150
Prices after 24th Feb. 1 child $115, 2 children $155, 3+ $195
Phone Merran on 0438 731 360 for more information

Mary MacKillop Heritage Centre
The Mary MacKillop Museum, at 362 Albert St East Melbourne, will be open to the public on Saturday, March 24, between 10:00am– 4:00pm, to enable visitors to view the special exhibition on loan from Sydney titled; “Mary MacKillop and the Irish sisters”- the story of Mary’s travels in Ireland and her return journey to Australia
Entry by donation and light refreshments available.
For more information telephone: 9926 9300 or visit: www.mmhc.org.au